

Bird species, their habitats, and abundance at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge.

Species	Scientific Name	Habitat Type	Abundance
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Wetlands	Occasional
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Wetlands	Abundant
Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	Wetlands	Casual
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Wetlands	Common
American bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	Wetlands	Uncommon
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Wooded wetlands	Rare
Green Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	Wooded wetlands	Abundant
Least Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus elixis</i>	Wetlands	Rare
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Wetlands	Abundant
Great Egret	<i>Casmeridius albus</i>	Wetlands	Occasional
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	Wetlands	Casual
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Wetlands	Casual
Tundra Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	Wetlands	Common
Trumpeter Swan	<i>Cygnus bicolor</i>	Wetlands	Uncommon
Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Wetlands	Casual
Snow Goose	<i>Chen aerulescens</i>	Wetlands	Uncommon
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Wetlands	Abundant
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	Wetlands	Abundant
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Wetlands	Common
American Black Duck	<i>Anas rubripes</i>	Wetlands	Common
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhyncos</i>	Wetlands	Abundant
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Wetlands	Common
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	Wetlands	Abundant
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Wetlands	Common
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Wetlands	Uncommon
American Widgeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	Wetlands	Common
Canvasback	<i>Aythya valisneria</i>	Wetlands	Common

Redhead	<i>Aythya americana</i>	Wetlands	Common
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	Wetlands	Abundant
Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	Wetlands	Common
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Wetlands	Common
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Wetlands	Common
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	Wetlands	Uncommon
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	Wetlands	Common
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Wetlands	Common
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Wetlands	Common
Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	Wetlands	Common
King Rail	<i>Rallus elegans</i>	Wetlands	Occasional
Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>	Wetlands	Abundant
Sora	<i>Porsana carolina</i>	Wetlands	Abundant
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Wetlands	Abundant
Sandhill Crane	<i>Grus canadensis</i>	Wetlands	Abundant
Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squaterola</i>	Grasslands and Shorelines	Casual
Lesser Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	Grasslands and Shorelines	Casual
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	Shorelines	Casual
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferous</i>	Grasslands and Shorelines	Abundant
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	Wetlands	Uncommon
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	Wetlands	Common
Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	Wetlands	Uncommon
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	Wetlands	Common
Upland Sandpiper	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	Grasslands	Casual
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusila</i>	Wetlands	Casual
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	Wetlands	Casual
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	Shorelines	Casual
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Wetlands	Uncommon

Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	Wetlands	Casual
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Shorelines	Casual
Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>	Grasslands and Shorelines	Casual
Short-billed Dowicher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	Grasslands and Shorelines	Casual
Long-billed Dowicher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	Grasslands and Shorelines	Casual
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Wetlands	Common
American Woodcock	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	Wetlands	Common
Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	Wetlands	Casual
Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Larus philapelpia</i>	Wetlands	Casual
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Wetlands	Uncommon
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Wetlands	Occasional
Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	Wetlands	Casual
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Wetlands	Casual
Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	Wetlands	Rare
Black Tern	<i>Childonias niger</i>	Wetlands	Common
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Woodlands	Common
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Wetlands	Common
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Grasslands	Common
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Woodlands	Uncommon
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperi</i>	Woodlands	Common
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Woodlands	Rare
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Riparian Woodlands	Common
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	Woodlands	Common
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Grasslands and Woodlands	Common
Rough-legged Hawk	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Grasslands and Woodlands	Common
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Wetlands	Uncommon
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliatus leucocephalus</i>	Wetlands	Common

American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	Grasslands	Common
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Woodlands	Rare
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Rocky Outcrops	Rare
Ring-necked Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Grasslands	Casual
Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellatus</i>	Woodlands	Common
Sharp-tailed Grouse	<i>Tympanuchus phasianellus</i>	Savannas	Casual
Northern Bobwhite	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	Grasslands	Casual
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Grasslands, Savannas, and Woodlands	Abundant
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	Agricultural and Grasslands	Rare
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Savannas	Abundant
Black-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Woodlands	Common
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Woodlands	Occasional
Eastern Screech-owl	<i>Otus asio</i>	Woodlands	Rare
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	Woodlands	Common
Snowy Owl	<i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>	Grasslands	Casual
Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	Woodlands	Common
Great Gray Owl	<i>Strix nebulosa</i>	Woodlands	Casual
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	Woodlands	Casual
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Grasslands and Wetlands	Casual
Northern Saw-whet Owl	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	Woodlands	Rare
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Savannas	Common
Whip-poor-will	<i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i>	Woodlands	Common
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	Savannas	Uncommon
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	Savannas	Uncommon
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	Wetlands	Abundant
Red-headed Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	Savannas	Common

Red-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	Woodlands	Uncommon
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	Woodlands	Uncommon
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Woodlands	Common
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Woodlands	Common
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Savannas	Abundant
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Drycopus pileatus</i>	Woodlands	Common
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus borealis</i>	Woodlands	Casual
Eastern Wood-Pee wee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	Woodland	Common
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	Wooded Wetlands	Casual
Alder Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	Wetlands	Common
Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax trailii</i>	Wetlands	Common
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	Woodlands	Abundant
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	Woodlands	Abundant
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Woodlands	Abundant
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Savannas	Abundant
Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Bare ground	Abundant
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	Savannas	Rare
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Savannas and Grasslands	Abundant
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	Wetlands	Casual
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Eroded Banks	Casual
Cliff Swallow	<i>Hirundo pyrrhonota</i>	Rocky Outcrops	Casual
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Grasslands and Savannas	Common
Gray Jay	<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>	Woodlands	Casual
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Woodland and Savanna	Abundant
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Varied	Common
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Varied	Abundant
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>	Woodland	Abundant

Tufted Titmouse	<i>Parus bicolor</i>	Woodland	Occasional
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Woodland	Abundant
White-breasted nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	Woodlands	Abundant
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	Woodlands	Uncommon
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Savannas	Common
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Wet Woodlands	Occasional
Sedge Wren	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	Wetlands	Abundant
Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	Wetlands	Abundant
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Woodlands	Uncommon
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	Woodlands	Common
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	Woodlands and Edges	Rare
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	Savannas	Common
Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	Woodlands	Common
Gray-cheeked Thrush	<i>Catharus minimus</i>	Woodlands	Casual
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	Woodlands	Casual
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Woodlands	Casual
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Woodlands	Common
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Savannas and Woodlands	Abundant
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Savannas and Edges	Abundant
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	Savannas	Abundant
Bohemian Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	Woodlands	Casual
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedorum</i>	Savannas	Abundant
Northern Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	Savannas	Common
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Savannas	Casual
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Varied	Uncommon
Solitary Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	Woodlands	Uncommon
Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	Woodlands	Common
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	Woodlands	Occasional
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Woodlands	Abundant

Prothonotary Warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	Wooded Riverine	Casual
Blue-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora pinus</i>	Woodlands	Uncommon
Golden-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	Woodlands	Uncommon
Tennessee Warbler	<i>Vermivora peregrina</i>	Woodlands	Rare
Nashville Warbler	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	Woodlands	Common
Northern Parula	<i>Parula americana</i>	Woodlands	Rare
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Savannas	Abundant
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	Woodlands	Common
Magnolia Warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	Woodlands	Uncommon
Cape May Warbler	<i>Dendroica tigrina</i>	Woodlands	Rare
Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	Woodlands	Rare
Cerulean warbler	<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	Wooded Riverine	Rare
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	Woodlands	Common
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	Woodlands	Common
Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	Woodlands	Common
Pine Warbler	<i>Dendroica pinus</i>	Woodlands	Uncommon
Palm Warbler	<i>Dendroica palmarum</i>	Woodlands	Uncommon
Bay-breasted Warbler	<i>Dendroica castanea</i>	Woodlands	Uncommon
Blackpoll Warbler	<i>Dendroica striata</i>	Woodlands	Casual
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilla varia</i>	Woodlands	Common
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	Woodlands	Common
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	Woodlands	Abundant
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	Wooded Wetlands	Uncommon
Connecticut Warbler	<i>Oporonis agilis</i>	Wooded Wetlands	Casual
Mourning Warbler	<i>Oporonis philadelphia</i>	Woodlands	Uncommon
Common yellow-throat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Wetlands and Edges	Common
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Wilsonia pusilis</i>	Wooded Wetlands	Rare

Canada Warbler	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	Woodlands	Casual
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	Woodlands	Common
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Edges	Uncommon
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	Woodlands	Common
Indigo bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	Edges	Common
Dickcissel	<i>Spiza americana</i>	Grasslands	Rare
Eastern Towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	Savannas	Abundant
American Tree Sparrow	<i>Spizella arborea</i>	Shrublands and Edges	Common
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	Woodland	Abundant
Clay-colored Sparrow	<i>Spizella pallida</i>	Savannas	Uncommon
Field Sparrow	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	Grasslands and Savannas	Abundant
Vesper Sparrow	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	Savannas and Grasslands	Common
Savanna Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	Grasslands	Common
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Grasslands	Rare
Henslow's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	Savannas and Grasslands	Rare
Fox Sparrow	<i>Passerella iliaca</i>	Shrublands and Edges	Uncommon
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Edges	Abundant
Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	Savannas	Occasional
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>	Shrublands and Edges	Rare
Swamp Sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	Wetlands	Abundant
White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	Woodlands and Savannas	Common
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	Savannas and Edges	Common
Harris' Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichis querula</i>	Shrublands and Savannas	Rare

Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Varied	Abundant
Lapland Longspur	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	Grasslands	Casual
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Grasslands	Uncommon
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	Grasslands	Common
Red-winged blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Wetlands	Abundant
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	Grasslands	Uncommon
Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	Grasslands	Occasional
Yellow-headed Blackbird	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	Wetlands	Occasional
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	Wetlands and Shrublands	Common
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	Grasslands	Uncommon
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	Varied	Common
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Varied	Abundant
Northern Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Woodlands and Savannas	Abundant
Purple Finch	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	Savannas and Edges	Uncommon
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostrata</i>	Woodlands	Rare
White-winged Crossbill	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	Woodlands	Rare
Common Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Shrublands	Casual
Pine Siskin	<i>Carduelis pinus</i>	Varied	Uncommon
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	Savannas and Edges	Common
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	Savannas and Edges	Casual
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Edges	Occasional

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Comprehensive Conservation Plan?

A CCP is a planning document that provides long-range guidance and management direction for the Refuge to accomplish its purpose, contribute to the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System and the Service, and to meet other relevant mandates.

In 1997 the U.S. Congress passed the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act (Act) to provide guidance for the management and public use of our country's national wildlife refuge. One of the provisions of the Act states that all refuges will be managed in accordance with an approved CCP. The Act further states that CCP's will be consistent with principles of sound fish and wildlife management, available science, legal mandates, and conservation plans of the state in which the refuge is located.

Who is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 92-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System comprised of more than 500 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands, and other special management areas. It also operates 66 national fish hatcheries and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

What is the National Wildlife Refuge System?

The National Wildlife Refuge System is the world's largest and most diverse collection of lands set aside specifically for wildlife. The refuge system began in 1903 when President Theodore Roosevelt designated 3-acre Pelican Island, a pelican and heron rookery in Florida, as a national bird sanctuary. The National Wildlife Refuge System is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Necedah CCP identifies the Yellow River as a "Focus Area". What are "Focus Areas?"

Focus areas are locations where the Service would like to intensify and concentrate planning activities (conduct biological assessments, surveys, hydrologic studies) and restoration and preservation of the natural resources in a given area. Focus areas are not Refuge boundaries. Refuge boundaries conform to individual land tracts as they are purchased from willing sellers within focus areas.

What is the Service's policy toward land acquisition?

The Service acquires lands and interests in lands consistent with legislation or other Congressional guidelines and Executive Orders, for the conservation of fish and wildlife and to provide wildlife-oriented public use for educational and recreational purposes. The Service policy is to acquire land only when other protective means, such as zoning or regulation, are not appropriate, available, or effective. When the Service acquires land, it acquires fee title (control of all property rights) only if control of lesser property interests (such as conservation easements, leases, or cooperative agreements) will not achieve objectives. The Service land acquisition policy is to purchase land from willing sellers only. Written offers to willing sellers are based on professional appraisals using recent sales of comparable properties in the area. Additional information on Service land acquisition can be found on the Internet at:

<http://www.fws.gov/r9realty/>

What criteria would the Service use when selecting lands for refuge status?

Apart from biological criteria, the presence of willing sellers is the most basic criterion in selecting land.

Other criteria will include:

1. Large tracts of 1,000 acres or more; smaller tracts would be considered given the presence of outstanding biological characteristics.
2. Tracts that require minimal management and development cost and low annual operation and maintenance costs.
3. Tracts enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, or Wetland Reserve Program.

Where does funding for land acquisition for wildlife refuges come from?

Typically, money to acquire land for national wildlife refuges comes from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and/or the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, both of which were established through federal law. The Land and Water Conservation Fund derives its money primarily from the sale of products on federal land, such as offshore oil and gas leases. Funds for the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund are derived from the sale of federal duck stamps.

If I own land in the Yellow River Focus Area, would I ever be forced to sell?

No. Focus areas are not refuge boundaries. They are planning units. All habitat restoration and preservation by the Service would be on a voluntary basis (willing buyer/willing seller only) and only lands in which the Service acquires a realty interest would become part of the Refuge. Actual Refuge boundaries would ultimately conform to specific land tracts as they are purchased from willing sellers within the focus areas. The Refuge is envisioned as a patchwork or checkerboard pattern of habitats comprising land parcels acquired from willing sellers within the focus area. Lands identified in the Yellow River Focus Area is in private and public ownership. It is not the intent of the Service to acquire lands already in public ownership.

How did the Service involve the public when developing the draft CCP and environmental assessments (EA) for this project?

Public participation is a vital part of refuge planning and the Service has worked hard to ensure inclusive public participation in this proposal.

Numerous federal, state, local, and private entities were involved in the CCP/EA development process. These include Wisconsin's Congressional Delegations, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Interior, Legislative members representing the counties involved, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, representatives from county, township, and other local governments, representatives of national, state, and local conservation organizations, landowners, and many other interested groups and citizens.

Information about the project was provided to stakeholders and the general public through news releases, presentations, interviews, informational letters, public meetings, briefings, and the Internet. Questionnaires, focus groups, and one-on-one discussions were used to gather input. More than 6,000 people were sent newsletters/project updates.

The Service hosted numerous public scoping meetings at the Refuge to exchange information on the refuge proposal. Informational meetings continued over the next three years at the request of the general public, government agencies, conservation organizations, and Congressional staff.

If I own land in or around an area that the Service says has high resource value, will my property ever be condemned?

While the Service has this authority, it doesn't use it except to clear title or preserve critically imperiled endangered species (which are rare). The latter is not the case in with this project. Our record has shown that in almost 99 per cent of all transactions we have not used condemnation. In fact, we were directed by Congress to use it in one of the few cases on record. Service policy is to acquire land only from willing sellers. Landowners within the Yellow River Area retain all of their rights, privileges, and responsibilities of private land ownership regardless whether it is a Service focus area or not. The presence of Refuge lands in the Yellow River Focus Area Basin would not afford the Service any authority to impose restrictions on any private lands. Service control of access, land use practices, water management practices, hunting, fishing, and general use is limited only to those lands in which the Service purchases an appropriate realty interest.

Will my rights as a property owner be infringed as a result of refuge designation?

No. If lands are developed into a national wildlife refuge area, the Service will have no more authority over private land within or adjacent to the boundaries of the refuge than any other landowner. Landowners would retain all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of private land ownership, including the right of access, control of trespass, and right to sell or not to sell.

If I sell my land to the Service, are there any relocation benefits?

Yes. The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended (Uniform Act) provides for certain relocation benefits to home owners, businesses, and farm operators who choose to sell and relocate as a result of federal acquisition. The law provides for benefits to eligible owners and tenants in the following areas: 1) reimbursement of reasonable moving and related expenses; 2) replacement housing payments under certain conditions; 3) relocation assistance services to help locate replacement housing, farm, or business properties; and, 4) reimbursement of certain expenses incurred in selling real property to the government.

Are their ways the Service can acquire an interest in land without buying it outright?

Yes. One way is by purchasing an easement from the landowner. A conservation easement involves the acquisition of certain rights that can help achieve fish and wildlife habitat objectives (for instance, encouraging certain practices such as delaying haying fields until ground nesting birds have left the nest). Easements become part of the title to the property and are usually permanent. If a landowner sells the property, the easement continues as part of the title.

Lease agreements are another tool. Leases are short-term agreements for full or specified use of the land in return for an annual rental payment that generally includes occupancy rights. For example, the Service could lease 40 acres of grassland habitat to provide safe nesting for ground nesting birds. Under this scenario, the landowner would agree not to hay or otherwise disturb the ground during the lease period.

Cooperative agreements are negotiated between the Service and other government agencies, conservation groups, or individuals. An agreement usually specifies a particular management action or activity the landowner will do, or not do, with his or her property. For example, a simple agreement would be for the landowner to agree to delay hayland mowing until after a certain date to allow ground nesting birds to hatch their young. More comprehensive agreements are possible for such things as wetland or upland restoration, or public access. Agreements are strictly voluntary on the part of the landowner and are not legally binding. As long as a landowner abides by the terms of the agreement, this protection can be effective in meeting certain refuge objectives. Unfortunately, because these agreements are voluntary and can be modified by either party, there is no complete assurance the terms will continue to be met.

Will drainage be changed in a way that affects my property?

The Service's intent is to have no impact on drainage from neighboring lands and to follow state laws regarding drainage activities. Service staff work with adjacent landowners and drainage districts to ensure that existing drainage facilities or patterns are not negatively impacted by refuge activity. If this project is approved, detailed hydrologic planning will be undertaken for all water-related activities on Service lands to ensure that Service activities do not alter drainage in any way that would cause flooding or drainage problems to private lands. The Service would not cause any artificial increase of the natural level, width, or flow of waters without ensuring that the impact would be limited to lands in which the Service has acquired an appropriate realty interest from a willing seller (e.g., fee title ownership, flowage easement, cooperative agreement). The Service would comply with all Federal and state regulations regarding development, some of which are specifically intended to ensure that the actions of one landowner do not adversely affect another. If Service activities inadvertently created a water-related problem for any private landowner (flooding, soil saturation or deleterious increase in water table height, etc.), the problem would be corrected at the Service's expense.

Through the Service's Partner's for Wildlife program, the Service has restored over 10,000 wetlands in the Great Lakes - Big Rivers Region, which includes Wisconsin. The expertise gained through this experience and by coordinating with partners like the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the States Departments of Natural Resources, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, The Nature Conservancy, and others, will help us achieve the wetland goals of this Refuge and not adversely effect others.

Is there a potential for land devaluation as a result of having land located in a Service "Focus Area?"

Data from other Service projects reveals that during the course of acquiring land for developing refuges, the value of land within project boundaries, as well as lands adjacent to refuge boundaries, tends to increase over time. This is due in part to the increased demand created by other, outdoor-oriented buyers interested in owning lands adjacent to a national wildlife refuge because of their enhanced recreational value. Likewise, it seems logical that the presence of a guaranteed willing buyer (the Service) would reassure lending institutions considering a secured loan using land inside a project area as collateral.

If the Service acquires land in an active drainage district with an easement for maintenance of drainage, does that district retain the right of access for maintenance of drainage ditches, tile and outlets?

Yes. Like any landowner, the Service is subject to any outstanding rights (easements) on any of the land it acquires.

Has the Service ever challenged the authority of a drainage district to maintain or improve the drainage of agricultural lands adjoining a Refuge? If so, how was the issue resolved?

We are not aware of the Service ever challenging the authority of a drainage district to maintain or improve drainage of privately owned lands adjacent to units of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Who has ultimate authority over the granting of Section 404 permits for drainage activities that may affect Service lands in a drainage district, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the Corps of Engineers?

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Who is responsible for controlling noxious weeds on refuge property?

The Service is responsible. The Service's policy is to control plants listed as noxious weeds by States. This control uses nonchemical methods when possible and chemical treatments when necessary to prevent noxious weeds from spreading to adjacent private land.

If private lands served by public roads become landlocked (surrounded by property acquired by the Service), are local governments under any obligation to continue maintenance?

Yes. However, if private lands are served by public roads, they are not considered "landlocked."

If the Service acquires land on both sides of a public road, will the Service close that road?

No. The Service has no authority to close roads or interfere with traffic or maintenance without township and county concurrence. Most of our refuges are overlaid by roads/highway easements without consequence. In fact, a refuge in New York is bisected by the New York State Thruway.

What is the Service's policy regarding crop damage resulting from increases in the wildlife population? Does the Service intend to make wildlife food plots part of its management plan?

The Service policy is to use tools such as hunting, lure crops, and habitat manipulation to assure that wildlife, particularly local Canada geese, do not cause depredation problems on neighboring farmland. While the development of wildlife food plots is not a primary objective of this Refuge, it does remain an option, depending on the site, type of wildlife, and type of food plot. Service policy is to use the most natural means available to meet wildlife objectives. If a localized depredation problem were to arise, the Service, working in concert with the USDA Animal Damage Control Division, would be available to assist in developing a damage abatement program specific to the problem.

Some people contend that the Service is destroying farmland when land is taken out of agricultural production and restored as wetlands, grasslands or other habitat; how do you respond?

Restoring wetlands, grasslands, and other natural habitats protects our Nation's long-term ability to produce food and fiber crops. Soil will rebuild itself when indigenous vegetative cover is restored. On the other hand, development can degrade soil and extensive commercial or dense residential development makes it very unlikely that the land will ever be restored to agricultural purposes in the future. If the Nation's lawmakers someday decide these areas are needed for agricultural production, it will be there.

Would the Service be required to act in accordance with the Federal Farmland Protection Policy Act as it develops this Refuge?

Yes. In compliance with this Act, the Service would implement the project in a manner that minimizes the extent to which the proposed refuge would contribute to the conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses. Refuge programs would also be administered in a manner that, to the extent practical, would be compatible with state and local government, and private programs and policies to protect farmland. In addition, Form AD-1006, Farmland Conversion Impact Rating, would be completed for this project. This rating system evaluates the degree to which federal projects impact farmland, and results in a score of 0 to 260. If a proposed action results in a score of 160 or less, USDA regulations require only a minimal level of consideration for protection to be provided to the site, and no additional sites need be evaluated.

Are newly acquired lands which become a federal refuge automatically closed to hunting, fishing and other recreational issues?

Not necessarily. The alternatives considered in refuge planning are mandated by Congress (Public Law 105-57, Oct. 9, 1997) to allow compatible wildlife-dependent recreational public uses such as hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, environmental education and interpretation. Goals and objectives are identified for the refuge (with public input), and the specific public uses are determined based on their consistency with the objectives established for the refuge. A refuge that serves as production areas for a federally endangered species is likely to offer less access for people during periods when the endangered species is present than at other times of the year. In Region 3, 88 percent of the refuges offer public recreational opportunities. Those that are closed include small islands or caves where endangered species or colonial nesting birds are present.

How can I find out more about the National Wildlife Refuge System?

You can request information by writing to us at:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wildlife Refuge System
Branch of Ascertainment and Planning
1 Federal Drive
Ft. Snelling, MN 55111.

You can also call us at 1- 800-247-1247. If you have access to the Internet, you can read about us at:
<http://bluegoose.arw.rq.fws.gov> or at: <http://www.fws.gov>



STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

Early in the planning process, as a way to better understand the Refuge's stakeholders, the planning team and Regional office staff develop this list of Refuge stakeholders and the primary criteria they might use to evaluate the Refuge's performance. Where considerable uncertainty occurred, we asked the stakeholder group directly.

"Stakeholder" – any group or individual who is affected by or who can affect the future of the Refuge.

Stakeholders

Stakeholder Evaluation Criteria

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Tribes | a. Emerging issues/self governance |
| 2. Schools | a. Access
b. Educational Programs
c. Facilities |
| 3. State of Wisconsin | a. Hunting programs/access/opportunities
b. Fishing programs/access/opportunities |
| 4. General Public | a. Orientation and introduction
b. Informational materials
c. Staff assistance/availability |
| 5. Researchers | a. Access to Refuge
b. Funds from Service |
| 6. Photographers | a. Access
b. Supply of birds/wildlife
c. Orientation/information |
| 7. Media Press | a. Frequency of info on Refuge to report
b. Column on refuge (weekly) |
| 8. Politicians | a. Controversy they have to deal with due to Refuge |
| 9. Disabled People | a. Access
b. Programs for disabled |
| 10. Fishermen | a. Access to areas
b. Quality game fishing areas |
| 11. Farm Bureau | a. How well we do what we say others should do (BMPs)
b. Support for ag. production (whether we do or do not) |
| 12. Drainage Districts | a. Information on water management
b. Whether refuge causes problem above or below refuge
c. Beaver control on Refuge |

13. Bicyclists
 - a. Access to Refuge
 - b. Quality trails
 - c. Information/promotion of destinations
14. Regional Office
 - a. Timely accurate narrative
 - b. Positive public impression
 - c. No controversy
15. Sporting Goods Stores
 - a. Supply of visitors/attraction
 - b. Access
 - c. How much the Refuge advertises to bring in outsiders
16. Motels
 - a. Same as sporting goods stores
17. Skiers
 - a. Signage
 - b. Destinations
18. Military
 - a. Whether or not we impact their programs and/or create controversy
19. Hunters
 - a. Access/crowding
 - b. Signage (language barriers)
 - c. Deer hunters - programs/access
 - d. Duck/Goose - supply of each
20. Berry Pickers
 - a. Access
 - b. Management for quality picks
 - c. Limited access for a certain few - quality picker
 - d. Information/orientation
21. Universities
 - a. Research dollars
 - b. Access for research
 - c. Availability of personnel to assist with research
22. Timber Companies
 - a. Continued access to timber on refuge
 - b. No endangered species issues
 - c. More timber to harvest
23. Cranberry Growers
 - a. No impact on their operation
 - b. No impact on potential expansion
24. Adjacent Landowners
 - a. Information on what we do what we do and why
 - b. Weed issues/same laws for all
 - c. Boundary definition
 - d. Access to refuge
25. County/Townships
 - a. Revenue from taxes
 - b. Revenue sharing payments
 - c. Road maintenance